



**Pennsylvania School Bus Association**

*Safely Transporting Pennsylvania's Future*



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## **SAFE DRIVER YEARBOOK**

Pennsylvania's Safest  
School Bus Drivers

2019-2020

# *Pennsylvania School Bus Association* **Proudly Presents** *Safe Driver Awards*



This year the Pennsylvania School Bus Association presented 17 Safe Driver Awards. The Awards program was established to recognize the efforts of school bus drivers who are dedicated to providing the safest ride for their passengers. All drivers honored this year have a minimum of five (5) years of continuous accident-free driving, with four drivers having achieved over forty years of safe driving

Our 17 safe drivers being honored have a combined total of:

- ◆ ***Over 1.6 MILLION miles of safe driving***
- ◆ ***393 years of accident-free driving***

The Safe Driver Award Winners' commitment to safety should inspire all professional drivers and we applaud their accomplishment. It is dedicated drivers like these that make safe student transportation a reality.

# *Pennsylvania School Bus Association* **Proudly Presents** *Safe Driver Awards*



The Pennsylvania School Bus Association was founded in 1980 and consists approximately 300 school bus contractors and industry partners who have come together to be a strong voice for school bus safety and the school bus contracting industry.

Our mission is to provide programs, education, and services to promote and foster the highest degree of safety in the transportation of school children and strengthen the quality of student transportation through professional management. PSBA works with many Pennsylvania organizations and government agencies to advance the mission and accomplish the goals of the membership.

We believe that gaining the respect and confidence of the students, parents, school administration, and members of the community provide the incentive to accomplish and maintain the highest degree of ethical conduct.

# 2019/2020

## Safe Driver Awards



### **FIVE YEAR SAFE DRIVERS**

Marissa Hastings

Joseph Ritz

Debbie Tiernan

### **TEN YEAR SAFE DRIVER**

Brenda (BJ) Jones

### **FIFTEEN YEAR SAFE DRIVER**

John Washok

### **TWENTY YEAR SAFE DRIVERS**

Marcia Bennett

Kim Long

Kathryn Malliard

Kim Wilson

### **THIRTY YEAR SAFE DRIVERS**

Christine Bornemann

Sue Euler

Zita Sanner

Maryann Tinney

# 2019/2020

## Safe Driver Awards



### **FORTY YEAR SAFE DRIVERS**

Vera Brooks  
Linda Dutcher  
Larry Shirley  
Sue Sickler



# Safe Driver Award Sponsoring Companies



**Girardat LP**  
*Cochranton, PA*

**Krapf School Bus**  
*West Chester, PA*

**Rittenhouse Bus Lines**  
*Smock, PA*



# *Congratulations to our Safe Drivers!*



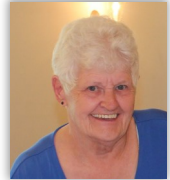
**Marcia Bennett**



**Christine Bornemann**



**Vera Brooks**



**Linda Dutcher**



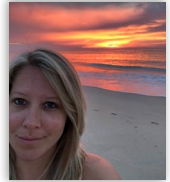
**Sue Euler**



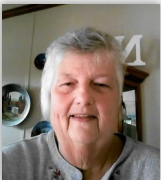
**Marissa Hastings**



**Brenda (BJ) Jones**



**Kim Long**



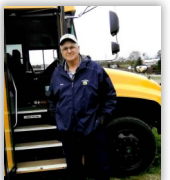
**Kathryn Malliard**



**Joseph Ritz**



**Zita Sanner**



**Larry Shirley**



**Sue Sickler**



**Debbie Tiernan**



**Maryann Tinney**



**John Washok**



**Kim Wilson**



**Marcia  
Bennett**

## **DRIVER STATISTICS**

**Accident free driving for 20 years!**

**Proud Employer:** Rittenhouse Bus Lines, INC.  
of Smock, Fayette County, PA

### ***Special Comments from Sponsoring Contractor:***

*Marcia Bennett has driven for Rittenhouse Bus Lines, Inc for 8 years, but has many more years experience than eight as a school bus driver. Marcia drives a rural high school and grade school run daily. Safety of those in her care is a huge consideration for Marcia. She maintains discipline on her bus and when she is absent the substitute driver recognizes that safety and order have been instilled into her bus riders. Marcia and her husband enjoy estate sales and collecting antiques. Congratulations Marcia, for receiving the Safe Driver Award.*





**Christine  
Bornemann**

## **DRIVER STATISTICS**

**Accident free driving for 30 years!**

**Proud Employer:** Girardat LP of Cochranton, Crawford County, PA

### ***Special Comments from Sponsoring Contractor:***

*It is hard to believe that for 30 years Chris has been providing a safe ride to her passengers. Chris loves her students and takes great care of them. Chris has been on the same route for many years so Chris has witnessed her students grow into young adults. In fact, one family recently questioned Chris on Facebook to make sure she plans to still be behind the wheel of the bus when their son starts school in 2 years. We are thankful that Chris told them yes! After 30 years behind the wheel, she knows what is expected to get the job done and will just make it happen. We thank Chris for being a member of our Safety Team and for her continued dedication to driving the future.*



## Vera Brooks

### DRIVER STATISTICS

**Accident free driving for 40 years!**

**Proud Employer:** Krapf School Bus of West Chester, Chester County, PA

### ***Special Comments from Sponsoring Contractor:***

*Vera Brooks started driving for Krapf in September of 1980. She has been married to her husband Bill for 41 years. The couple have 3 sons, Billy, Brandon and Dan and 7 grandchildren. Vera started with Krapf so she could take her own children to school. Vera enjoys driving the big yellow school bus as she continued to drive she enjoyed seeing the students talking to each other and telling her stories. She especially liked the little ones coming up to her so cute, putting their shoes in her lap and asking her to tie their shoes and some of them saying to her- see my loose tooth do you think it's going to come out soon?*

*Vera has always driven for Krapf and has had several different routes for West Chester Area School District- #3, #13, #91, #94, #123 and currently on #74. Vera has driven for many sports teams such as West Chester East Band and ski trips to Bear Creek and Jack Frost. Vera has also worked for the Krapf Coaches Charter department where she audited driver logs and worked as a dispatcher in the KCI dispatch office assigning drivers. Vera is now a certified trainer for Krapf training new hires. Vera says she enjoys meeting and molding new drivers as they enter the world of driving a big yellow school bus full of the world most precious cargo.*

*A couple of years ago- as old man winter blew in a snow storm with white out conditions she was driving to the bus lot that morning. As she pulled into the bus lot and stepped up onto the school bus steps she found out West Chester District finally closed, she felt safe already even though she still had to drive home.*

*Supervisor Barb Martz's comments: Vera has been a safe, professional and overall FANTASTIC driver. Vera is very friendly, always smiling, always on time and willing to help her fellow co-workers. Thank you Vera for being such a dedicated and professional school bus driver for Krapf for all of your 40 years you make all of us here at Krapf VERY PROUD. Congratulations to Vera on this award.*



**Linda  
Dutcher**

## **DRIVER STATISTICS**

**Accident free driving for 40 years!**

**Proud Employer:** Girardat LP of Cochranton,  
Crawford County, PA

***Special Comments from Sponsoring Contractor:***

*If you were to look up what characteristics a dedicated and professional bus driver should have, you would find yourself looking at a photo of Linda. Linda is one special lady and the team at Girardat LP is so fortunate to have her on our safety team. From the moment she walked into our operation, we knew that someone special had just entered our world. To be in the presence of such a devoted, caring and compassionate person is a wonderful feeling that everyone should experience. Linda has a huge heart and she touches everyone that she comes in contact with on a daily basis. Linda just loves her special needs kiddos and they become a part of her family on day one. She is the lady with all the special gifts on her bus and her kiddos will tell you that they want "Miss Linda" back when she needs a day off.*

*Linda – you always have a way of making someone's day better and the team at Girardat LP thanks you for all that you do for us!!*



**Sue  
Euler**

## **DRIVER STATISTICS**

**Accident free driving for 30 years!**

**Proud Employer:** Krapf School Bus of West Chester, Chester County, PA

### ***Special Comments from Sponsoring Contractor:***

*Words cannot express what an amazing employee Sue is. She is loyal and incredibly dedicated bus driver who cares deeply for the work that she performs each and every day. She is an asset to our Coatesville team and an absolute pleasure to work with.*



**Marissa  
Hastings**

## **DRIVER STATISTICS**

**Accident free driving for 5 years!**

**Proud Employer:** Girardat LP of Cochranton,  
Crawford County, PA

### ***Special Comments from Sponsoring Contractor:***

*Marissa is a team member that does a wonderful job with her passengers and the piece of equipment. Marissa is passionate about the students on her bus and is determined to make their ride to and from school a wonderful experience. She comes to work, does what you ask of her and will just get the job done. Marissa is an active member with the local barrel racing organization and is extremely competitive with her horse. Girardat LP is thankful to have Marissa on our Safety Team.*



**Brenda  
Jones  
"BJ"**



## **DRIVER STATISTICS**

**Accident free driving for 10 years!**

**Proud Employer:** Girardat LP of Cochranton,  
Crawford County, PA

### ***Special Comments from Sponsoring Contractor:***

*BJ has been a member of our extended family for a long time. She spent many summers helping clean the equipment while she was in High School. BJ found her way back to us 10 years ago and we are glad. She is our consistent sub-driver that is able to jump into any piece of equipment and cover numerous routes. BJ enjoys the sports trips also and has created a wonderful relationship with our school athletes. She loves her sports and is always helping/providing helpful tips to the students. Girardat LP is thankful for BJ's dedication as a member of our Safety Team and a trainer – thanks for the last 10 years!!*



**Kim  
Long**

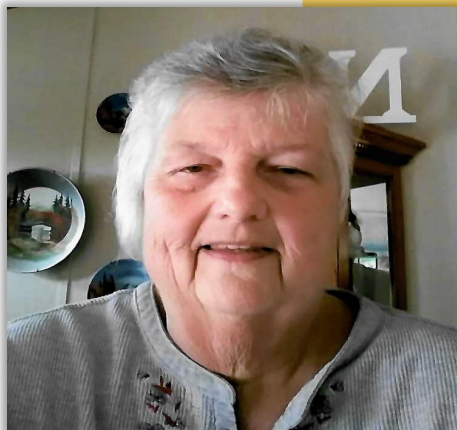
## **DRIVER STATISTICS**

**Accident free driving for 20 years!**

**Proud Employer:** Krapf School Bus of West Chester, Chester County, PA

### ***Special Comments from Sponsoring Contractor:***

*I started driving school bus when I was 18. I got my driver's license in July when I turned 18 and 3 months later I had my CDL. I decided to drive school bus for a few reasons. The main reason was because it paid better than most jobs. Especially cleaning rooms at the Holiday Inn for \$ 6.25, which is what I was doing before getting my CDL. Another reason was because I enjoyed working with children and lastly my Mom, Aunt and Sister drove for Krapfs. I started out in West Chester school district driving bus #42. This was a very stressful route for my first year but somehow I survived and eventually switched to bus #22 and lastly bus #25 Downingtown. I rode a shuttle for a few years from Glenmoore to West Chester. My route changed and the start times didn't match up with the shuttle so my bus was moved to Glenmoore. This worked out for the best. When I had my son in 2004 dragging him on and off a shuttle bus would have been tough. There is nothing better than being able bring your child to work with you every day and having the summers off to spend with your kids.*



**Kathryn  
Malliard**



## **DRIVER STATISTICS**

**Accident free driving for 20 years!**

**Proud Employer:** Girardat LP of Cochranton,  
Crawford County, PA

***Special Comments from Sponsoring Contractor:***

*Kathy continues to provide her students with an extremely safe ride to and from school. She has a compassion for her exceptional learners and enjoys taking them on field trips. Between the nurses and students, Kathy does work with many personalities – always with a smile on her face. She is good with change and definitely knows her way around our community. Kathy always looks extremely comfortable in the driver's seat. We are fortunate to have her behind the wheel of a Girardat LP bus.*





**Joseph  
Ritz**

## **DRIVER STATISTICS**

**Accident free driving for 7 years!**

**Proud Employer:** Rittenhouse Bus Lines, INC.  
of Smock, Fayette County, PA

**Lifetime Miles:** 68,000

### ***Special Comments from Sponsoring Contractor:***

*Joe Ritz is a man of many talents. Joe Ritz came to Rittenhouse Bus Lines, Inc after retiring from UPS as a safety coordinator. Joe drives junior senior high school students as well as elementary students daily. He has driven inner city riders as well as rural riders over the past 7 years and manages the behavior of each equally well. Joe is also a Third Party Tester for Rittenhouse Bus Lines, Inc. and a school bus instructor. Joe enjoys traveling with his grandchildren and took a month-long trip across the US to California this summer stopping at many points of interest. We are happy to have Joe Ritz in our family of bus drivers.*



**Zita  
Sanner**



## **DRIVER STATISTICS**

**Accident free driving for 30 years!**

**Proud Employer:** Girardat LP of Cochran, Crawford County, PA

***Special Comments from Sponsoring Contractor:***

*Girardat LP would like to thank Zita for her many years of service, for the countless hours she has spent behind the wheel of a school bus or riding as a bus aide, for doing her best to get the job done in a professional manner and for the willingness to always help in any way that she can. Zita connects with her students in a way that they refer to her as Grandma Zita before too long. She definitely has many adopted Grandkids in our community. Zita displays a true passion for her students and the love she has for each one is so genuine. Zita is a vital part of our Safety Team! We appreciate her true dedication and thank her for 30 years of safe transportation.*



**Larry  
Shirley**

## **DRIVER STATISTICS**

**Accident free driving for 40 years!**

**Proud Employer:** Girardat LP of Cochranton, Crawford County, PA

### ***Special Comments from Sponsoring Contractor:***

*Larry drove bus for 3 years before pursuing a job driving for a local oil company. However, Larry always remained on our sub-driver list and was extremely dependable and reliable. In fact, he would apologize for days if he was not able to help us on a particular day due to his other commitments. When Larry decided that it was time to leave the oil company and come to us full-time, we were thrilled. We knew that we were the lucky ones to have an employee that would be so dependable and eager to get the job done. Larry always looks so comfortable behind the wheel and one can always find a smile on his face.*

*Larry – we are glad that you decided to remain with Girardat LP the last 40 years.*

*We are thankful for your continued dedication. You are a pleasure to have on our Safety Team.*



**Sue  
Sickler**

## DRIVER STATISTICS

**Accident free driving for 40 years!**

**Proud Employer:** Krapf School Bus of West Chester, Chester County, PA

### ***Special Comments from Sponsoring Contractor:***

*Sue started driving bus back in 1980 when she found out that she could bring her son to work with her. During her time working at Krapf, she realized that she loved the freedom of being on the road every day and developing strong relationships with her students and their parents. Sue has split her 40 years at Krapf driving 20 years each in Coatesville and Twin Valley. Aside from driving school bus, she has also done her fair share of trips and working for our paratransit division in the summers when Rover Community Transportation was first starting up.*

*Sue currently drives school bus and works part-time in the Glenmoore office as an assistant for our Twin Valley Contract. She is a staple in our working community, is incredibly caring and a great resource for her peers. Sue loves working at Krapf because it gives her a sense of family and community and that is part of what has kept her driving bus for all of these years.*

*In her spare time, Sue enjoys taking long weekends down at the beach with her family and friends and playing Bingo.*

*When asked how she stays safe on the road, Sue replied, "Pay attention to your surroundings and always be courteous to other drivers on the road!"*



**Debbie  
Tiernan**



## **DRIVER STATISTICS**

**Accident free driving 5 years!**

**Proud Employer:** Rittenhouse Bus Lines, INC.  
of Smock, Fayette County, PA

**Lifetime Miles:** 88,000

### ***Special Comments from Sponsoring Contractor:***

*Rittenhouse Bus Lines, Inc is happy to recognize Debbie Tiernan for the Safe Driver Award for 2020. Debbie transports "exceptional students" on a daily basis to high school and to an elementary building within the district. She is very much concerned with the safety of her passengers and always has their best interests at heart. Debbie has driven for Rittenhouse Bus Lines, Inc. for 5 years.*



**MaryAnn  
Tinney**

## **DRIVER STATISTICS**

**Accident free driving for 30 years!**

**Proud Employer:** Krapf School Bus of West Chester, Chester County, PA

***Special Comments from Sponsoring Contractor:***

*I have been married to my high school sweetheart for 52 years and have 2 children and 2 grandchildren. I started driving a school bus in 1979 for Krapf Bus Company because I was able to be with my children while supplementing the household income. I enjoyed participating in the safety competitions at the company, county, state and national level. I became a school bus instructor, IU coordinator and full time training supervisor before retiring from those positions last year. I have a passion for driving and continue to drive a daily school bus run. The best feeling is knowing the parents of the children I drive have the confidence in me that I will take care of their children and safely transport them to and from school daily. I have many memories and long lasting friendships through the years and I am still in contact with some students that I transported years ago. Along with spending time with my family, I enjoy riding my Harley and so far I have been through 46 states and Canada.*



**John  
Washok**

## **DRIVER STATISTICS**

**Accident free driving for 15 years!**

**Proud Employer:** Girardat LP of Cochranton,  
Crawford County, PA

### ***Special Comments from Sponsoring Contractor:***

*John has been an extremely dedicated employee. He continues to drive a route to Erie every day in all types of weather, lots of highway traffic, and with many exceptional learners who can be extremely active. John will get the job done with a smile on his face and is very contentious about his responsibilities. John enjoys his students and continues to ensure that his passengers receive a safe ride. John enjoys representing Girardat LP at the local safety competitions and has made the trip to Penn State for the state competition numerous times. We appreciate John's dedication and hard work.*



**Kim  
Wilson**

## **DRIVER STATISTICS**

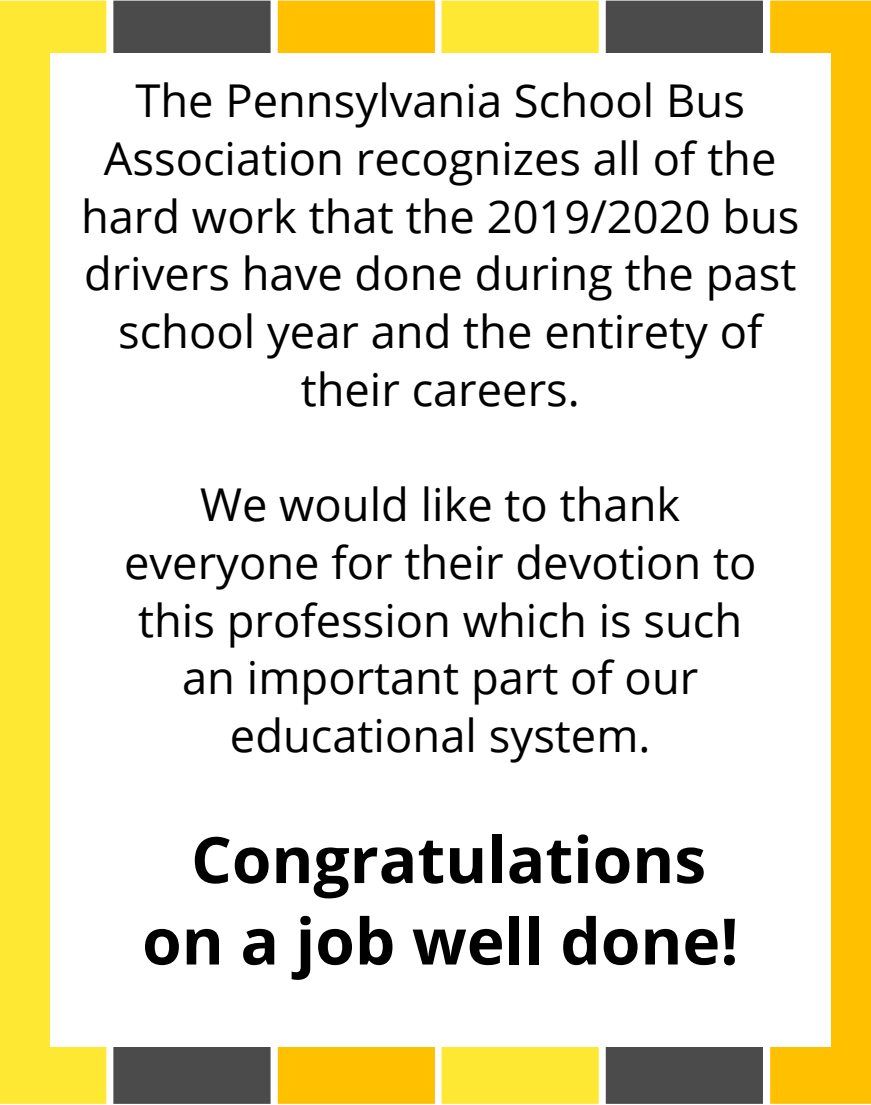
**Accident free driving for 20 years!**

**Proud Employer:** Krapf School Bus of West Chester, Chester County, PA

### ***Special Comments from Sponsoring Contractor:***

*Kim is a very professional and dedicated driver who comes to work every day. Through her career she has driven rural routes and is now driving special needs students. It is a pleasure to have her as a driver.*





The Pennsylvania School Bus Association recognizes all of the hard work that the 2019/2020 bus drivers have done during the past school year and the entirety of their careers.

We would like to thank everyone for their devotion to this profession which is such an important part of our educational system.

**Congratulations  
on a job well done!**

# *A Bus Driver's Prayer*




Author Unknown

Please, Lord, watch me this day.

Please help me remember to watch all five mirrors, two dozen windows, eight gauges, six warning lights, six dozen faces, three lanes of traffic and to keep a third eye open for wobbling bicycles and daydreaming pedestrians, especially teen-agers wearing headsets who are in another world. Please Lord, help me hear all train whistles, truck and automobile horns, police sirens, and the two-way radio. Please also let me hear when one of my students calls for me, and just needs a listening ear. Please Lord, give me a hand for the gear lever, the steering wheel, the route book, the radio microphone, and the turn-signal lever, while being able to hand out Kleenexes, pencils, or other things the kids may need. And Lord, please grant me the self-control to keep my hands away from Johnny's neck when he's pinching and biting Billy, while trying to keep everybody in their seat, and reminding them that sticking their head outside the window is not safe. And one more thing, dear Lord, please don't let Mary be sick all over the bus.

And finally Lord, please watch over us all  
so that we can do it again next year.


**AMEN**



*"The Safe Driver Award is a meaningful way to communicate to your driver that their daily efforts are valued."*  
- E. McGowan

RECOGNIZE YOUR DRIVERS WITH THE


# PSBA SAFE DRIVER AWARD



The PSBA Safe Driver Award is an excellent opportunity for PSBA members to recognize your drivers for their exceptional job performance.

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Companies that participate in this program incorporate the presentation at company holiday parties, safety meetings, and at year-end company events.



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For more information visit [www.paschoolbus.org](http://www.paschoolbus.org) and review the Safe Driver Award Application online.



**Pennsylvania School Bus Association**

*Safely Transporting Pennsylvania's Future*

# **SAFE DRIVER AWARD**

**The Pennsylvania School  
Bus Association would like  
to THANK YOU ALL!**



**Pennsylvania School Bus Association**

*Safely Transporting Pennsylvania's Future*